

Event Type: Rodeo & Fair

Incident: Amusement ride injury

Narrative

On Sunday, March 16, 2008, a rodeo and fair were held in Kissimmee, FL at an event complex. A regional carnival operator had set-up shop at the fairgrounds. The Fair Authority had contracted for 34 amusement rides and devices. The fair was being held in conjunction with a widely publicized rodeo event. This was the second year that the rodeo and fair had been held together. This was the second and final weekend of the fair and rodeo. The rodeo on Sunday, March 16, 2008, was the third and final night. It was the championship event. The total number in attendance was estimated at 17,450.

Approximately a half mile away and young girl was riding on a spinning flat ride (an amusement ride). While the ride was cycling the young girl collapsed. The ride cycle was a third complete. Her friend that was riding with her started to scream at the operator. The operator did not initially hear her. It took 2 additional rotations to gain the operators attention. The ride cycle was coming to a stop. The operator proceeds to release passengers systematically waiting to the end to address the needs of the distressed passenger. The operator whistles at an operator at another ride to assist and fails to yield a result. The operator leaves his ride searching for a manger or police officer patrolling the midway. The operator locates and explains to a police officer the situation. A 911 call is placed approximately 5-6 minutes after the incident.

EMS is on property at the front entrance to the rodeo. EMS received the call and was responding. At the time of the call the rodeo had ended. Approximately 8,000 people were exiting the front entrance of the rodeo. The main thoroughfare to the fair location was now obstructed. The EMS personnel stay in the bus trying to navigate through the crowd. Several sheriff officers were with walking distance of the situation. The ride time from the front entrance of the rodeo to the spinning flat ride was 8 minutes. The elapsed time since the call was 13-14 minutes. The young lady was dead on scene. It was noted that an AED under 4 minutes would have saved this child's life. The ambulance was only 2,640 feet away.

Problem statements

- What should the ride attendant have done?
- What did the carnival operator fail to do? Why? How could they avoided this?
- Was there adequate communication? Why or why not?
- Where should have EMS been? Did they have enough on hand? Why or why not?
- What should the police have done?
- What should have the facility done?
- What is an appropriate response time and why?
- Should there have been an established route for EMS and police? Explain the process?
- What kind of crowd management/control practice should have been in place? Who should have developed the procedures and who should have implemented them?
- Do you have to notify anyone concerning the death? Who? How long do you have?
- Should you do anything for the family? What? Who should do it? Do you assume blame by doing so?
- What kind of policies do you implement for future concerns?